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## HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DIRECTOR OF HEALTH TO ESTABLISH A TASK FORCE TO  
STUDY THE EFFECTS OF ATRAZINE ON HUMAN HEALTH.

1           WHEREAS, more than sixty million pounds of atrazine, a  
2 weed-killing pesticide, is used annually in the United States;  
3 and

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5           WHEREAS, the toxicity of atrazine is well documented and  
6 has been shown to have adverse endocrine effects in amphibians,  
7 mammals, and humans; and

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9           WHEREAS, there is evidence that atrazine exposure is  
10 associated with low sperm counts and poor motility in exposed  
11 adult men, and that pre-birth atrazine exposure is associated  
12 with low birth weight and abnormal development of the gut wall  
13 in infants; and

14  
15           WHEREAS, in laboratory mammals, exposure to atrazine is  
16 associated with abnormal reproductive system development,  
17 impaired prostate gland formation, and abnormal breast tissue  
18 development; and

19  
20           WHEREAS, in aquatic life, exposure to atrazine is  
21 associated with abnormal reproductive system development,  
22 impaired reproduction, and impaired immune system function; and

23  
24           WHEREAS, the United States Fish and Wildlife Service  
25 acknowledges that atrazine may have potential adverse effects on  
26 fish, including organ tissue disease, disruption to the  
27 endocrine and olfactory systems, and reduced reproductive  
28 function; and

29



1           WHEREAS, according to data from the Environmental  
2 Protection Agency Atrazine Monitoring Program, high levels of  
3 atrazine are also evident in drinking water systems and more  
4 than ninety per cent of the samples taken in 139 water systems  
5 had measurable levels of atrazine in both 2003 and 2004; and  
6

7           WHEREAS, in 1991, Germany and Italy banned the use of  
8 atrazine; and  
9

10           WHEREAS, in 2003, European regulators announced a ban on  
11 the pesticide throughout the European Union; and  
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13           WHEREAS, the United States Department of Agriculture  
14 estimates that a ban on atrazine would result in crop losses of  
15 only 1.19 per cent and decrease corn acreage by only 2.3 per  
16 cent; and  
17

18           WHEREAS, since banning atrazine nearly twenty years ago,  
19 Italy and Germany have not experienced a reduction of corn  
20 productivity or total acreage of land in production; and  
21

22           WHEREAS, atrazine has been used for decades in Hawaii to  
23 treat sugarcane, pineapple, and more recently seed corn; and  
24

25           WHEREAS, rainfall sweeps atrazine into rivers and streams,  
26 threatening plant and aquatic life; and  
27

28           WHEREAS, the Department of Agriculture does not test for  
29 atrazine because of the lack of inspectors, and atrazine users  
30 are largely left to police themselves with regard to compliance  
31 with atrazine guidelines promulgated by the Environmental  
32 Protection Agency that limit spraying and require setbacks from  
33 water resources; and  
34

35           WHEREAS, tests run by the Department of Health repeatedly  
36 show that drinking water in the State, and mostly in the County  
37 of Hawaii, is contaminated with low levels of atrazine; and  
38

39           WHEREAS, a report by the Soil/Water/Air Protection  
40 Enterprise shows that Hawaii is ranked tenth among the states



1 for the percentage of its population exposed to atrazine in  
2 drinking water; and

3  
4 WHEREAS, it is in the best interest of the State to be at  
5 the forefront of a monitoring and regulatory effort to protect  
6 Hawaii residents from the potential adverse effects of chronic  
7 atrazine exposure; now, therefore,

8  
9 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
10 Twenty-seventh Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular  
11 Session of 2013, the Senate concurring, that the Director of  
12 Health is requested to establish a task force to study the  
13 effects of atrazine on human health; and

14  
15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Health is  
16 requested to serve as the chairperson of the task force and  
17 invite the following persons, or their respective designees, to  
18 serve as members of the task force:

- 19  
20 (1) The Chairperson of the Board of Agriculture;
- 21  
22 (2) The Speaker of the House of Representatives;
- 23  
24 (3) Two members, to be appointed by the Speaker of the  
25 House of Representatives;
- 26  
27 (4) Two members, to be appointed by the Senate President;  
28 and
- 29  
30 (5) A representative of a community environmental group;  
31 and

32  
33 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Health is  
34 requested to provide all administrative, technical,  
35 professional, and clerical support required by the task force  
36 for matters pertaining to this measure; and

37  
38 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force is requested to  
39 report to the Legislature its findings and recommendations,  
40 including any proposed legislation, no later than October 31,  
41 2013; and



1  
2 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force cease to exist  
3 on June 30, 2014; and

4  
5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
6 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Health  
7 and the Chairperson of the Board of Agriculture.  
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